

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, was signed into law by President Barack Obama on Feb. 17, 2009. The intent of the act is to stimulate the U.S. economy during the recent economic downturn. It includes federal tax cuts, spending for infrastructure, education, health care and various other social programs and the expansion of unemployment benefits. The act also includes many non-economic recovery related items that were either desired by Congress or part of the long-term plans. The ARRA helps stimulate the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs and help modernize infrastructure.

Close to home, roadway and transit projects to be funded through ARRA in southern Nevada were approved by the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) Board of Commissioners on March 12th, 2009. southern Nevada has been allocated approximately \$73 million in funds with about \$39 million going for highway projects and \$34 million going for transit projects.

In a cooperative effort with the enti-



The Central City Transit Terminal, located at Bonneville Avenue and Casino Center Boulevard, is a transit project funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

ties in Clark County, the RTC developed a prioritized list of projects for funding using ARRA allocations. A contingency list of projects has been developed in case additional funds become available. Some of the larger projects to be undertaken directly impact the city of Las Vegas and include the construction of the Centennial Hills Park and Ride and a Transit Center at U.S. 95 and Durango, the construction of the Central City Transit Terminal at Bonneville Avenue and Casino Center Boulevard, and construction of roadway, shelters and

other amenities for the ACE Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line on Fremont Street/ Boulder Highway between downtown Las Vegas and Henderson.

The city of Las Vegas has been approved for ARRA funding for energy projects. The Planning and Development Department submitted its application for \$5.45 million allocated to the city through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) which can be used for renewable energy

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City of Las Vegas Sustainable Energy Strategy Implementation Update

Tom Perrigo, AICP, deputy director of Planning & Development, briefed the City Council and Planning Commission in July on the status of implementing the city's Sustainable Energy Strategy. The strategy, adopted Sept. 3, 2008, adopted goals for city operations, codes and policies, and community programs, which will create jobs for southern Nevadans, reduce the city and community's electricity consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce power bills.

In order to achieve these reductions, the city will leverage money from the Green Building Special Revenue Fund, NV Energy SolarGenerations rebates, and ARRA funding sources, including \$5.45 million entitled to the city from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, to begin projects over the next three years. The new projects include major renewable energy and energy efficiency capital improvements, such as

- Approximately one megawatt of solar covered parking at public facilities across the city
- A four megawatt solar power plant at the Water Pollution Control Facility
- Energy efficiency retrofits to public facilities
- Replacement of streetlights with energy efficient lighting

The upcoming year will also see the launch of Home Free Nevada and Green Chips. The Home Free Nevada program will rebate the cost of energy audits to city residents while Green Chips will provide loans to applicants who



A hot, sunny day provided the perfect backdrop for Mayor Oscar B. Goodman and Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese to give a brief overview of the project. Solar panels will be mounted on 34 carport stalls to yield approximately 54,000 kilowatt-hours of energy savings annually, enough to power 4.5 homes.

make energy efficient retrofits to their buildings. The city's Green Building Program will also re-launch with new incentives for new residential and commercial construction or retrofits to existing buildings that build to city standards, such as LEED or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design. Altogether, city and community investments total nearly \$28 million.

Perrigo emphasized that these projects have included many different collaborators within the city and the community; Planning and Development has worked with the Public Works Department, Field Operations, NV Energy and UNLV.

Additionally, the strategy also has the benefit of generating revenue for the city.

"Not only will 100 percent of the cost savings from renewable energy projects be invested into new renewable energy projects, citizens that participate in the community programs will have more income due to reduced power bills; the money that is spent will return to the city in the form of tax revenue," Perrigo said.



HUD's Deputy Secretary Ron Sims called the first Community Development Block Grant Recovery project approved by HUD, "a project for now and a project for the future."

The City Council commended staff on the progress of the city and accepted the report. Councilman Steven D. Ross stated that these efforts will help diversify the economy and put Las Vegas at the forefront of other cities in the West. The entire City Council has given its strong support to implementing the Energy Strategy. ^{GW}



ACE Rapid Transit

The beginning stages of developing Nevada's newest rapid transit system have begun. In an effort to advance transit along the busy downtown Las Vegas and southern resort corridor, the city of Las Vegas, with the other adjoining municipalities, have joined with the RTC to develop a transportation initiative. The ACE Rapid Transit System project will supply a network of stops throughout the Las Vegas Valley, providing convenient service for residents and tourists.

The ACE Downtown Connector, recently named the Gold Line, will require improvements along several roads including Grand Central Parkway, Paradise Road and Casino Center Boulevard. The ACE Downtown Connector Phase 1, which is completed, proceeds on Grand Central Parkway between Iron Horse Court and City Parkway.

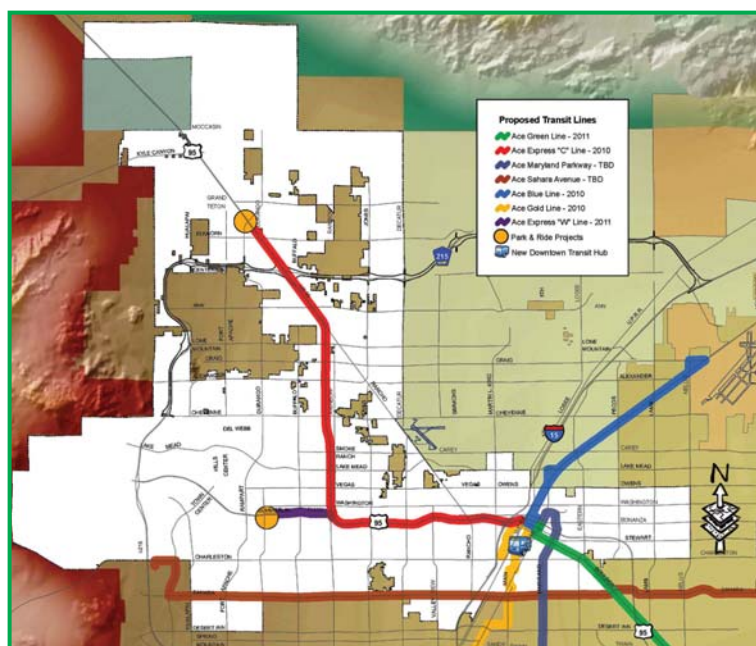
The ACE Downtown Connector Project Phase 2, which is currently under construction, includes the construction of a dedicated state-of-the-art, rapid transit lane in the center of Casino Center and Third Street, seamlessly linking downtown Las Vegas to the Las Vegas Convention Center. Transit station platform boarding areas with amenities such as station canopies, lighting, ticket vending machines and displays announcing vehicle arrival times are being constructed.

Express routes are also anticipated to begin operating in 2010. The ACE Express service will utilize the high occupancy vehicle lanes along U.S. 95 to provide express transit between Summerlin, Centennial Hills, downtown Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Strip.

The Boulder Highway Rapid Transit project, or the Green Line, will provide for an RTC Bus Rapid Transit route along Boulder Highway and Fremont



The dedicated transit lane along Casino Center Boulevard will be utilized by the ACE Gold Line in 2010.



When launched in 2010 and 2011, ACE and ACE Express will link the Las Vegas Strip and downtown Las Vegas to all parts of the valley.

Street from Eighth Street to Lake Mead Boulevard in Henderson. The 15 mile corridor will facilitate approximately 23 new passenger stations with sun protection and ample lighting. Construction is expected to be underway this year. By 2011 the city of Las Vegas hopes to see the ACE Boulder Highway line in full service.

In addition to constructed projects, the Maryland Parkway Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study was adopted by the

RTC on April 30, 2009. The study addresses transit enhancement alternatives and a transit action plan for the portion of Maryland Parkway from downtown Las Vegas to McCarran International Airport. The next step for RTC project implementation would be the adoption of specific recommendations into the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. ^{GW}



Walkable Community Plans

After completing their work on recommendations for updating the city's Green Building Program, the Green Council, a group consisting of developers, architects and various organizations, will work with staff from Long Range Planning to make recommendations on a walkable community plan. These plans were discussed at the joint City Council and Planning Commission Workshop and will focus on a variety of sustainability related issues, including

- Improving pedestrian accessibility to local retail, schools and public services
- Benefits to public health that occur from walking or cycling

- Reducing traffic congestion by encouraging walking or cycling for short trips
- Enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety through the provision of "complete streets"
- Identifying and promoting local amenities, which will reduce trips outside of the neighborhood

Using GIS to evaluate the proximity of residences to neighborhood commercial areas and recreational amenities, six neighborhoods were selected, including the Meadows Lane neighborhood near Meadows Mall and the neighborhood around Village Square. When considering their recommendations, members of the Green Council will examine the existing conditions of the neighborhood, connectivity, the status of the sidewalk network, bicycle facilities, transit stops and shelters, and neighborhood amenities and recreation areas. The Green

Council will also consider proposed improvements, and additions to sidewalks, street trees and other streetscape enhancements, crosswalk improvements, addition of bicycle facilities and removal of any impediments to pedestrian accessibility. After comments have been received from the Green Council and other scheduled public meetings occurring in the fall, staff will incorporate the recommendations into the Walkable Community Plans. *GW*



*Shaded
sidewalk
amenity.*

Sustainability Purchasing Policy



The Purchasing and Contracts Division of the Finance and Business Services Department has developed a sustainability purchasing policy, which is in line with the Sustainable Energy Strategy. The goal is to leverage city purchasing dollars to decrease the carbon footprint and to save the city money in the life cycle cost of materials purchased. Life cycle cost includes the operating efficiency, maintenance and disposal cost of a product.

To give examples, this policy would give purchasing preferences for products that are:

- Made of recycled materials
- Durable, repairable, compostable and reusable products
- Non-toxic or minimally toxic, preferable biodegradable
- Highly energy efficient in production and use
- Manufactured in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner by companies with good environmental track records

- Cause minimal or no environmental damage during normal use or maintenance
- Shipped with minimal packaging, and preferably made of recycled or recyclable materials
- Recycled paper and paper products
- Green seal cleaning products
- Energy saving products – certified EnergyStar, etc.

In Fiscal Year 2008, Purchasing and Contracts conducted a pilot program city wide to change from consumption of 100 percent "virgin" paper to paper with post-consumer content. Even though recycled paper costs more per ream than "virgin paper," there was a savings in 193,180 gallons of waste water consumed and reduction in energy usage by 286 million BTUs and 40,395 pounds of carbon dioxide, which equates to greenhouse gases produced by 3.7 cars. Also, the additional cost is partially offset by IT policy to set copiers and printers to double-sided printing.

Other items being looked at by Purchasing include 1) the consolidation of office supply deliveries 2) the purchase of recycled content janitorial paper supplies and products that are GreenSeal certified 3) life cycle cost of city paint supplies and 4) other products used throughout city departments that could be purchased that are environmentally friendly and sustainable. *GW*



AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

generation, building energy efficiency retrofits, streetlight replacement and funding bike and pedestrian infrastructure. The city will also use its allocation of Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds, apply for New Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, and apply for future ARRA grants for a variety of projects.

When completed, these ARRA projects will create jobs associated with projects that are intended to be completed quickly, two major goals of the stimulus plan. They will also distribute funds over a variety of projects ensuring that the benefits of the ARRA will be felt throughout the city and all of southern Nevada. ^{GW}



International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives

(ICLEI) 2009 CONFERENCE

As Mayor Oscar B. Goodman's representative, Tom Perrigo, AICP, deputy director of Planning and Development, attended the 2009 ICLEI Conference in Washington D.C. in May. This trip allowed officials from local governments to meet with federal officials to share information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and to obtain information about the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program requirements that will help cities develop sustainability programs.

Perrigo found a major shift in thinking among federal agencies, particularly the Department of Energy, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. These agencies have focused on breaking down

silos and working together to achieve common objectives to create sustainable communities through green building and transportation programs and policies. They have also recognized that local governments are the key to achieving these objectives through revised building and zoning codes and transit planning.

The city's Sustainable Energy Strategy helps create jobs, save energy, reduce carbon emissions and serves as a model program for leveraging EECBG funding. Because the city had the foresight to align its sustainability policies with federal policy over the last two years, it is well positioned to take full advantage of energy stimulus dollars. Part of the city's strategy is to use EECBG funds as leverage to increase spending on energy projects, use the EECBG for springboard projects and programs that will continue funding projects beyond initial funding year and create

jobs through programs such as Home Free Nevada. This program has tremendous potential to create jobs.

Given the focus of the federal government on energy, carbon emissions, green building, sustainability and transit, there is a need to continue strengthening local/federal relationships and secure funding direct to local government to achieve national objectives. ^{GW}



The city of Las Vegas is helping to create jobs, save energy and reduce carbon emissions.

SUSTAINING LAS VEGAS

Partnering Organizations:

University of Nevada Las Vegas

<http://urban21.unlv.edu/about/>

Southern Nevada Green Building Partnership

<http://nvgreenbuilder.com/>

NV Energy

<http://www.nvenergy.com/>

National Association of Industrial and Office Properties

<http://www.naiopnv.org/>

U.S. Green Building Council

<http://www.usgbc.org/>

Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition

<http://www.snrpc.org/>

Southern Nevada Water Authority

<http://www.snwa.com/html/>

Las Vegas Valley Water District

<http://www.lvwd.com/>

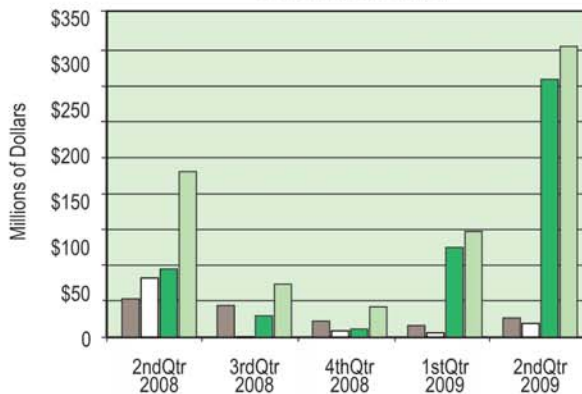
Energy Star

<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home.index>



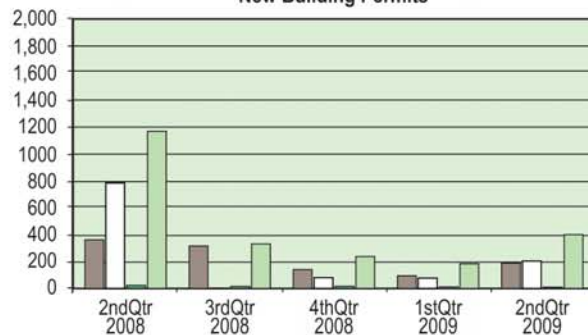
Single Family
 Multi-Family
 Commercial
 Total

New Permit Valuation



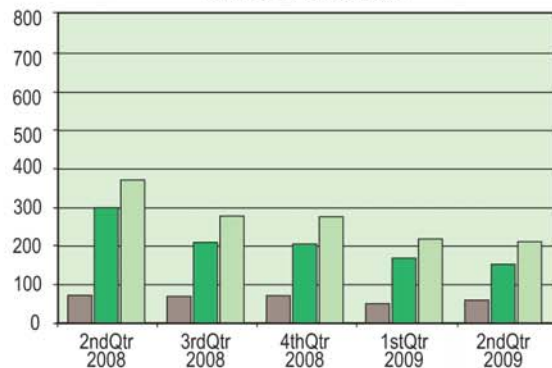
New Permit Valuation				
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Total
2nd Qtr-2008	\$ 41,809,724	\$ 64,442,112	\$ 74,293,054	\$180,544,890
3rd Qtr-2008	\$ 34,463,322	\$ -	\$ 23,224,450	\$ 57,687,772
4th Qtr-2008	\$ 17,369,185	\$ 6,854,290	\$ 8,807,278	\$ 33,030,753
1st Qtr-2009	\$ 12,689,423	\$ 4,723,363	\$ 97,820,440	\$115,233,226
2nd Qtr-2009	\$ 20,968,528	\$ 14,980,825	\$281,307,807	\$317,257,159
% Chg Last Qtr	65.2	217.2	187.6	175.3
% Chg Last Year	-49.8	-74.6	278.6	75.7

New Building Permits



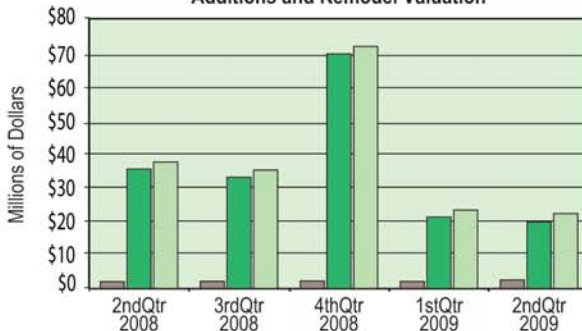
New Building Permits				
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Total
2nd Qtr-2008	367	797	23	1,187
3rd Qtr-2008	321	-	15	336
4th Qtr-2008	143	82	16	241
1st Qtr-2009	96	78	12	186
2nd Qtr-2009	191	207	9	407
% Chg Last Qtr	99.0	165.4	-25.0	118.8
% Chg Last Year	-48.0	-74.0	-60.9	-65.7

Additions and Remodels



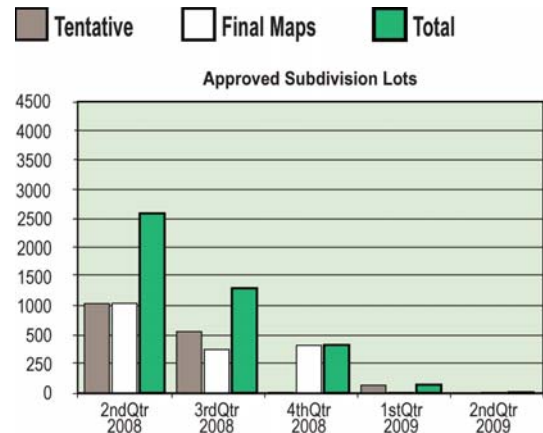
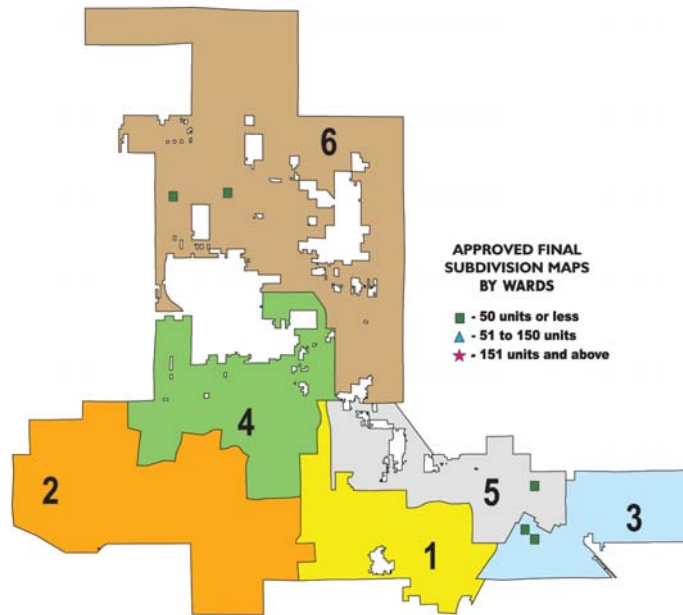
Additions and Remodels			
	Single Family	Commercial	Total
2nd Qtr-2008	72	301	373
3rd Qtr-2008	69	210	279
4th Qtr-2008	71	206	277
1st Qtr-2009	50	169	219
2nd Qtr-2009	59	153	212
% Chg Last Qtr	18.0	-9.5	-3.2
% Chg Last Year	-18.1	-49.2	-43.2

Additions and Remodel Valuation



Additions and Remodel Valuation			
	Single Family	Commercial	Total
2nd Qtr-2008	\$ 2,065,200	\$ 35,808,469	\$ 37,873,669
3rd Qtr-2008	\$ 2,128,605	\$ 33,357,509	\$ 35,486,114
4th Qtr-2008	\$ 2,235,143	\$ 70,316,940	\$ 72,552,083
1st Qtr-2009	\$ 2,083,187	\$ 21,406,131	\$ 23,489,318
2nd Qtr-2009	\$ 2,543,401	\$ 19,919,574	\$ 22,462,975
% Chg Last Qtr	22.1	-6.9	-4.4
% Chg Last Year	23.2	-44.4	-40.7

Source: city of Las Vegas (including subdivision information)



Source: city of Las Vegas

Leading Economic Indicators For Clark County

"The Southern Nevada Index of Leading Indicators turned down for July. This follows a couple of months of upward and sideways movement. The depth of the July decline, however, is little more than giving back the gains of recent improvements. The index declined -0.62 percent from the previous month and is 3.23 percent below the level for the same month a year ago. Seven of the ten series contributed negatively to the index (the contribution measure comes after seasonal adjustment and weighting of the individual series). All in all, we see continued weakness in the Southern Nevada economy with no clear signals that the local recession is at the end. At best, we no longer see a freefall of the index and perhaps forming a bottom to the decline."

Source: UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research, July 2009

Approved Subdivision Lots			
	Tentative Maps	Final Maps	Total
2nd Qtr-2008	886	889	1,775
3rd Qtr-2008	608	430	1,038
4th Qtr-2008	4	471	475
1st Qtr-2009	76	4	80
2nd Qtr-2009	1	5	6
% Chg Last Qtr	-98.7	25.0	-92.5
% Chg Last Year	-99.9	-99.4	-99.7

Editors note: In order to update the community on the city's Sustainability Initiative, *Green Watch* and *Growth Watch* alternate on a quarterly basis.

Leading Economic Indicators						
CLARK COUNTY SERIES	DATE	UNITS	LATEST PERIOD	CHANGE PREVIOUS PERIOD	CHANGE YEAR AGO	CONTRIBUTION TO INDEX *
RESIDENTIAL BUILDING						
Units Permitted	May-09	#Units Permitted	456	11.22%	-60.45%	0.063%
Permit Valuation	May-09	Dollars	\$ 46,145,102	6.57%	-64.48%	0.074%
COMMERCIAL BUILDING						
Permits	May-09	#Units Permitted	20	-13.04%	-76.47%	-0.041%
Permit Valuation	May-09	Dollars	\$ 280,700,910	2507.74%	113.17%	-0.049%
TAXABLE SALES	May-09	Dollars	\$ 2,368,769,107	-1.95%	-21.86%	-0.319%
McCARRAN AIRPORT	May-09	Passengers Enplaned/Deplaned	3,532,182	-0.93%	-11.52%	-0.159%
GALLONS OF GASOLINE	May-09	Thousands of Gallons	65,779,638	2.40%	-0.63%	0.049%
GROSS GAMING REVENUE	May-09	Dollars	\$ 747,606,792	1.76%	-7.71%	-0.200%
CONVENTIONS HELD						
Visitor Volume	May-09	People	3,199,719	0.90%	-5.78%	-0.041%
Attendance	May-09	People	341,846	-17.58%	-32.90%	-0.001%
OVERALL CHANGE IN LEADING INDICATOR **	Jul-09		126.12	-0.62%	-3.23%	-0.62%

Source: UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research

* The contribution to the index is a net-weighted average of each series after adjustment for seasonal variation.

** The index is a six-month forecast (November 1, 2009) from the month of the data (May 1, 2009) and four months from the month of the series (July 1, 2009).



New Councilman Stavros S. Anthony, Ward 4

Councilman Stavros S. Anthony was elected to represent city of Las Vegas Ward 4 on June 2, 2009. As the newest elected official, we asked Councilman Anthony his thoughts on a few topics such as sustainability, public service and his priorities for Ward 4.

Councilman Anthony believes that the city of Las Vegas and its staff are on the cutting edge of sustainability. He was impressed with the direction being taken to conserve resources and to promote recycling. Sustainability is one of the three strategic initiatives adopted by the city in its efforts to become a world-class city.

In fact, the councilman has plans to sponsor shredding and recycling parties for Ward 4 residents. He believes these parties will not only bring residents together within the community but, it will provide a valuable service to recycle materials and to prevent identity theft in the disposal of personal information. Any Ward 4 residents who want to learn more about this new program can call Ward 4 at 229-2524.

Councilman Anthony has always been active in public service: he was a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officer for 29 years, served on the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents for nine years, and now serves on the City Council. Public service allows him to help make the city of Las Vegas a better place to live, to make neighborhoods safe, bring a higher system of education and make the city of Las Vegas a great place to live and work.



Councilman Stavros S. Anthony

Councilman Anthony feels that Ward 4 is already well developed with its master plan communities and homeowner associations. His priorities for Ward 4 are the same as for the city which are a clean environment, safe neighborhoods, organized community, bringing a sense of community among the residents, and for the residents to know who and where to go for needed services. **GW**

RESOURCES

Planning & Development Department:
www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Planning

Development Services Center:
www.lasvegasnevada.gov/DSC

Historic Preservation:
www.lasvegasnevada.gov/HPC

Maps:
www.lasvegasnevada.gov/maps

Sustaining Las Vegas:
www.lasvegasnevada.gov/sustaininglasvegas

Las Vegas GREEN WATCH

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Las Vegas City Council

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Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese, Ward 3
Councilman Steve Wolfson, Ward 2
Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian, Ward 1
Councilman Steven D. Ross, Ward 6
Councilman Ricki Y. Barlow, Ward 5
Councilman Stavros S. Anthony, Ward 4

City Manager

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Deputy City Managers

Orlando Sanchez
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Chief Urban Redevelopment Officer

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